

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joel Meyer (Reg. # 37,677) on 09 July 2002.

The application has been amended as follows:

Amend claims 36 and 37 as shown:

10 ~~36.~~ (Amended) The method of [A plastic document produced in accordance with] claim ~~22~~

wherein the photo identification document comprises a plastic document.

E' ~~37.~~ (Amended) The [A driver's license produced in accordance with the] method of claim ~~22~~

wherein the photo identification document comprises a driver's license.

15 2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The terminal disclaimer filed 14 June 2002 has overcome the non-statutory double patenting rejection of claims 18-21. In addition, none of the prior art teaches or suggests the use of steganographically encoded data that is not evident to human observers, but which can be detected by a computer from visible light scan data, as variously required by each of the independent claims. Therefore,  
20 the claimed invention is allowable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Claims 18-21, 22-23, 24, 33-44 and 45-51 (now renumbered for issue as 1-4, 13-14, 5, 15-26 and 6-12, respectively) are allowed.

5 4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Johns whose telephone number is (703) 305-4788. The examiner is normally available Monday through Friday, at least during the hours of 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Eastern Time. The examiner may also be contacted by e-mail using the address: andrew.johns@uspto.gov. (Applicant is reminded of the Office policy regarding e-mail  
10 communications. See M.P.E.P. § 502.03.)

15 If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Boudreau, can be reached on (703) 305-4706. The fax phone number this art unit is (703) 872-9314. In order to ensure prompt delivery to the examiner, all unofficial communications should be clearly labeled as "Draft" or "Unofficial."

20 Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

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A. Johns  
9 July 2002

ANDREW W. JOHNS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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